

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS 2022

www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Reg. Charity No 313202



**Helena-Céline Stevelt graduating from the University of Cambridge and receiving her MPhil in Biological Science (Psychology), February 25th 2023.
Photo: Private**

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY

Patrons

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

Protector of the Scholarship Programme

HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, GCVO

Honorary President

HE René Dinesen, R1, Danish Ambassador

Officers and Members of Council

Wayne Harber, OBE, K (Chairman)
Alan Davey, FCMA (Hon. Treasurer)
Katie Schwarck (Hon. Scholarship Sec.)
Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, R
Christine Bergstedt
Lone Mohr Curtis
William Scott
Philip Waterfield (Co-opted)
Lisbeth Hedelund Pedersen (Co-opted)
Ulla Baagøe (Co-opted)
Phil Chambers (Co-opted)

Ex-Officio Members

Lone Britt Christensen –Danish Embassy
Pastor Flemming Kloster Poulsen
The Danish Church
Connie Yilmaz Jantzen - Danish YWCA
Gunnar Papendick Larsen, DK-UK Assoc.

Scholarship Committee

Katie Schwarck (Chair & Hon. Secretary)
Dr Kristian Jensen, R
Lone Britt Christensen
Wayne Harber, OBE, K
Professor Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen

Membership Subscriptions

Single membership £25
Family membership £40
Corporate membership £200

Anglo-Danish Society
43 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5TF
info@anglo-danishsociety.org.uk
www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk

Webpage, Newsletter Layout & Co-Editor:

Palle Baggesgaard Pedersen, R

Co-Editor of Newsletter:

Lone Mohr Curtis

Social Media Editor:

Bette Petersen Broyd

Reg. Charity No.: 313202

SUPPORT

THE ANGLO-DANISH SOCIETY'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

From its first award in 1959, the AngloDanish Society's charitable Scholarship Programme continues to grant scholarships for the purpose of post graduate study or research to British and Danish Students for study in the other country.

It is an investment in our youth that underpins our aim of strengthening relations between Britain and Denmark.

This funding makes a real difference to Scholars by enabling further research and providing them with an opportunity to enjoy the whole experience of living and working in another country.

The Society and its Scholarship Programme rely entirely on the work and commitment of its volunteers, with no paid staff, no overheads and very few administrative costs and we need your help in raising funds to ensure that we can continue this valuable work.

Please respond generously to this appeal.

Payments:

Bank transfer - to NatWest (please add your surname as the reference):

Sort Code: 55-70-13

Account No: 78325285

Cheques - (made out to Anglo-Danish Society) and sent to:

The Honorary Treasurer

40 Princes Way

Hutton

Brentwood, CM13 2JW

www.anglo-danishsociety.org.uk/scholarships

THANK YOU

Published May 2023

Helena-Céline Stevelt, MPhil in Biological Science (Psychology), University of Cambridge

My MPhil at Cambridge was an exciting deep dive into research, I spent a year designing, implementing, and analysing data from my own little research project. Due to the pandemic, I had to work on existing data from a prior research study led by my supervisor: the Brain Imaging for Global Health Project, which was conducted in the Gambia. This allowed me an exciting opportunity to study mother-infant interaction and child development in a rural Gambian setting, which is very different from the research settings that have shaped developmental science.

My research was on mothers' ways of interacting with infants, and I designed my own measurement tool, a coding scheme, for analysing the interactions. Then, I examined how the mothers' interaction styles were related to their infants' social brain specialisation and later language development. This yielded new and exciting findings, some contrary to previous research from the US and UK, raising important questions about cross-cultural differences in child development and the dominance of a "Western" perspective in developmental science. In September 2022, I presented some of my findings as a poster presentation at the SAPIENS Early Social Development (SESD) conference in Belgium. It was a dream come true to present my own work at a scientific conference and made me feel like a proper scientist!

I used the Anglo-Danish Society Scholarship towards my monthly expenses, which allowed me to focus on college life. I pursued rowing, qualifying for my college women's 1st VIII+ boat. Throughout the year, I spent countless hours either training or competing in races on the river Cam and elsewhere (like in London!). This was such an incredible experience and I will be forever grateful for the Scholarship which gave me the financial breathing room to pursue rowing.

Recently, I finally graduated from Cambridge, which was a magical experience, full of latin and centuries-old traditions. In the future, I hope to build a research career in brain and cognitive development. For now, I am working on publishing results from my MPhil in a scientific journal and I have been accepted for a PhD at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck, University of London – one of the leading centres in Europe.

Mattias Horan

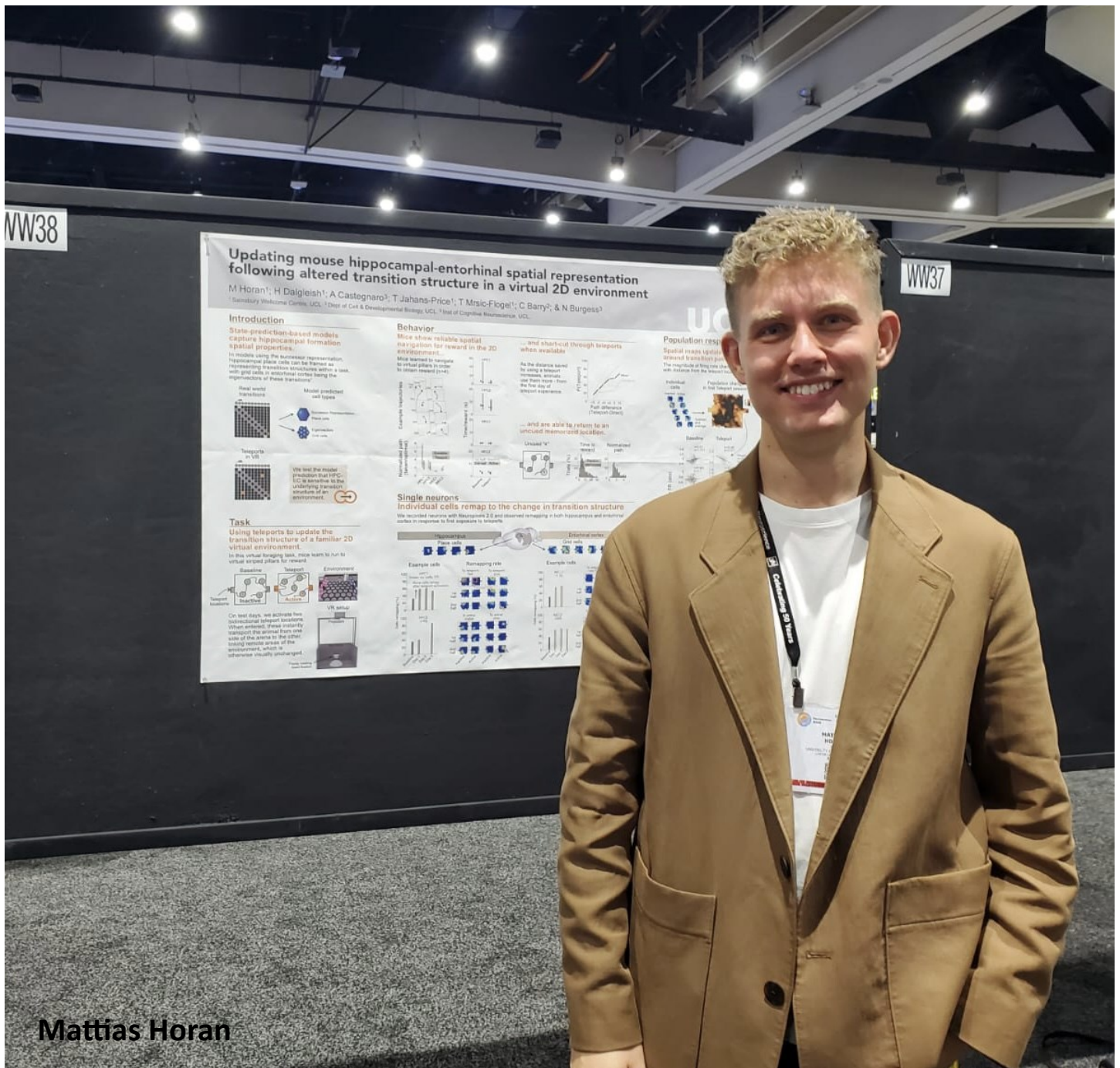
PhD : How does the spatial navigation system integrate time and memory?

University College London, Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour

Thank you to the Anglo-Danish Society for the support for my PhD at University College London. It has been a wonderful and productive time of my career and the support from the society played no small role making it happen. Working toward a PhD in the UK might unfortunately be best described as financially disheartening – and yet the world-class opportunities here attract us anyway! So your support helps shore up an otherwise difficult period. And even more importantly, being part of a community and a legacy of Danes in the UK is something I've taken pride in and strength from. I sincerely hope the society continues its support to future students.

As a young doctor, I have focused on both basic (pre-clinical) and clinical research of the brain. A particularly prominent disease of the brain is Alzheimer's Disease. Disorientation (a loss of ability to navigate in space) is an early sign of the disease. We believe this is because initial damage to the brain often happens in an area called the hippocampal formation, the seat of the brain's navigation system. The hippocampal formation contains specialized brain cells called place cells and grid cells that underlie its navigational role, creating a map in our heads. The discovery of this map was awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize to UCL professor John O'Keefe and colleagues, the very place where I am now continuing this line of inquiry. We now need to understand how the spatial function fits with the memory function of the hippocamps, and my project has been aiming to bridge these functions.

I've kept busy during my PhD with recording these place and grid brain cells to understand the link between the map (in the brain of mice while they find their way in virtual mazes) and other normal functions of the brain, such as learning and memory. I've had the opportunity to present this work at conferences (e.g. in San Diego in November 2022, where the picture of me is taken) and look forward to continuing and completing the work in the coming year. I will then return to medical practice in Denmark. Your support has helped me both in my contribution to the scientific effort and in my ongoing education – and who knows, hopefully with ongoing collaboration we can create some true Anglo-Danish scientific advances!



Mattias Horan



Tora Djurhuus

Tora Djurhuus

PhD: The Legacy of the Past in Brexit Britain

University of Exeter (Centre for Imperial and Global History)

Titled 'The Legacy of the Past in Brexit Britain', my research focused on British Euroscepticism and imperial memory, as I examined how and to what extent Britain's imperial legacy has influenced Eurosceptic arguments over the years, and how the memory of empire has been used in political and cultural debates to shape narratives of national identity, especially in relation to the rest of Europe. Given this particular topic, a research stay at a UK university was originally planned to take place in 2020. However, these plans were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet the generous grant I received from the Anglo-Danish Society in 2021 made up for this lost opportunity and allowed me to conclude my PhD studies at the University of Exeter in the Fall of 2021 instead. I handed in my thesis in March 2022 and successfully defended it in June

2022.

The opportunity to study at Exeter under the supervision of Professor Richard Toye certainly added both academic value in the final stages of the project, as well as an important post-Brexit perspective to the project. Specifically, I was able to strengthen the arguments of my analytical chapters during my stay at Exeter, as I was able to benefit from Professor Toye's expertise in political rhetoric. In addition, during my stay, I was affiliated with the Centre for Imperial and Global History and attended numerous relevant and interesting lectures, arranged by the centre.

Overall, my PhD thesis provides a deeper understanding of British national identity and some of the factors involved in Britain's decision to leave the European Union. As Eurosceptic tendencies are not confined to Britain, but are present in other national contexts, the knowledge produced by my research is important and relevant for both Britain and Denmark. A stronger understanding of the British variant of Euroscepticism, rooted in British culture, identity and history, can provide insight and benefit the future relationship between Britain and Denmark post-Brexit. Since the completion of my PhD studies, I actively apply my research results and knowledge in my new role as a political advisor at the Representation of the Faroe Islands at the Royal Danish Embassy in London.

I am grateful for the opportunities provided by the Anglo-Danish Society grant as the grant most certainly secured the successful completion of my PhD research, which in turn paved the way for a new career in the foreign service.

Katrine Deleuran Strunk

Master of Performance

Royal College of Music in London

I would like to start with a heartfelt thank you for your support in my Master of Performance at Royal College of Music in London. Travelling to another country in the middle of a global pandemic and right before Brexit was quite intense and unbelievably special – I will never forget the day I walked up from Oxford Circus underground station and was completely alone on the big shopping street during one lockdown. Even though my masters started online and the circumstances were way different than what I first had imagined, I would do it all again if I could! It was the perfect time for me to extend my musical horizon and start working with my new singing teacher. When I started my masters, my voice was just beginning to evolve from that of a mezzo to a soprano, I had very little control over my instrument and it felt like I had to start all over again and get to know my voice anew. Together with an incredible team of skilled mentors and teachers, I got to work and through a lot of dedication and eagerness I started exploring the new sound of my instrument. The hard work paid off, the result is a flexible big warm soprano-sound and I feel like I have matured, not just as a musician and artist, but also as a human being. At my final recital, in which I scored my highest grade 76%, I invited agents to come and I was very happy to sign with the agency CLB Management who is currently representing me internationally. Last year I took part in two Young Artist programmes: Leeds Lieder Festival in England and Atelier Lyrique Opera at Verbier Festival in Switzerland. In addition to this I was also amongst the 19 selected young artists who was awarded a prize from the International Opera Awards Foundation Bursary 2022.

London has been an amazing city to study in and I have undeniably made a lot of good contacts and will continue to work with my singing teacher and coaches from London. In October 2022 my husband and I packed everything we own and moved to Munich. My dream is to eat my way through scores, learning by doing and build up confidence to trust in all the work I have put into my talent.

Why Germany? I believe Germany is the breeding ground for young opera singers. It is where careers are

truly developed through the many theatres spread all over the country. I am also certain that the German repertoire is deeply intervened into my path as an opera singer and therefore I would like to get as close to the language and the culture as possible.

Once again I would like to thank you for supporting my education, because of your help I have been able to dedicate all my time to my studies and that is why I now stand as a well-balanced artist with a solid craftsmanship and a will to tell stories like never before. I am extremely excited for what the future will bring and I am looking forward to the next adventure – “onwards and upwards!”



Katrine Deleuran Strunk

Alberte Agerskov

Recipient of the Ove Arup Foundation Scholarship

MA Fine Art

Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London

My MA was supported with a scholarship by the Anglo-Danish Society. The scholarship has helped me to pay my tuition fees and rent, and I am grateful for the society to have supported me, enabling me to grow a relevant and aware cross-disciplinary praxis as architect and artist.

The two years have completely changed my way of working and addressing mine and other's work. I have learned methods to discuss and critically write about my own work. Furthermore I have obtained a great deal of understanding of how processes within the occidental art world works, which has helped me to be able to promote and present my own projects.

During my studies at CSM, I experimented with both performance, sound- and video work. While studying, I had two exhibitions in Italy with Swing Design Gallery. At CSM, I partook in a student led crit-group (An-X group), who are now curating an exhibition at the Koppel Grade Police Station, Hampstead Heath, the 7th to 28th July, where my work will be exhibited.

I have continued working with the research that I commenced in my dissertation, inquiring how we can create hierarchy-less connections between humans and the more-than-human world that we are part of. My sculptural and video-based work is often grounded in theories of New Materialist feminism. My upcoming solo-exhibition will take place in Milan in May, and is based upon an ancient myth, that of the Silphium flower, allegedly functioning as a natural contraception remedy, to tell contemporary stories of geo-/bio-micro and macro controls upon female bodies, and contraceptive (in)equities. A relational and sensorial art project, commenced during my studies at the CSM in London.



One of Alberte's exhibitions at Swing Design Gallery in Italy

Magnus Plejdrup

Postgraduate degree in orchestral conducting

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your support. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to go on this journey, which has evolved me greatly, both as a musician and as a person. It was a great pleasure meeting some of you in May 2022 along with HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, and I hope you are all well.

I applied to this course because I had a strong wish to study with maestro Martyn Brabbins (Music director of English National Opera, 30+ years association with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra etc.). Mr. Brabbins is a pupil of the Russian teacher Ilya Musin (1903-1999), who's one of the most famous conducting teachers of all time, due to his special approach to conducting technique. Before starting my studies, I was very fascinated by the philosophy behind this whole school of thought, and the most optimal way of familiarizing yourself with it, after Musin's death, is through his pupils – of which Mr. Brabbins is one of the most prominent ones. In short, it's all based around principles of breath and circular motion.

Since I started these studies, I have worked hard to apply these principles to my own conducting, with great success, and I now experience a much higher feeling of control and expression when performing. The studies have brought me great opportunities to practice conducting with professional ensembles such as Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra of Scottish Opera and Red Note Ensemble. I have also had lessons with various guest teachers such as Thomas Søndergaard, John Wilson, Sir Andrew Davies and more.

I now look forward to returning home to Denmark where I'll continue my work on the chamber orchestra 'Ensemble Pluma' that I founded back in 2018. We'll be changing our name to 'Aarhus Chamber Orchestra' in 2023 and work on a clear vision of bringing classical music to new audiences.

